

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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★ In This Issue ★

Air Piracy Gets Ham Radio Help
Land Mobile Comments on 220 MHz
Video Xmitter Importer Convicted
Third-Party Traffic Arrangements
Riprocal Operating Agreements
March/April VE Program Statistics
Kansas City Antenna Ordinance
225-MHz FM Broadcast Band Denied
Reply Comments: Scanner Labeling
Israeli Hams Contact King Hussein
Dayton ARA Announces Scholarships
Ham Petitions for Restructuring
Special Event Call Signs are Back
and much much more!

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Air Piracy Incident Assisted by Ham Radio

On Friday night, June 5th, a commuter airplane was hijacked while enroute to San Juan, Puerto Rico. The pilot of the twin engine Grumman "Mallard" seaplane shuttle aircraft was a ham. The shuttle service operates between St. Thomas, St. Croix and Puerto Rico. The pilot, Neil B. Coulston, KB4CCW, and his wife, Dr. Mary Lou, KV4KD - a marine biologist, are both active amateur radio operators.

When Coulston was approaching San Juan, a male passenger came to the cockpit and demanded that he be flown to Cuba or he would blow up the plane with explosives he said he had in his attache case.

Coulston told the hijacker that he didn't have enough fuel on board to make it to Cuba. He would have to land to refuel. Neil also put out a secret message on the plane's UHF frequency that there was an on-board emergency.

Coulston landed in San Juan and taxied up to some gas pumps and gassed up. The seventeen passengers on board were released when Coulston agreed to fly to Cuba. He then convinced the hijacker that he was going out and pay for the gasoline.

The hijacker remained in the plane alone and said he had enough dynamite to

blow up both the plane and the terminal building. Authorities surrounded the plane and negotiations initiated.

Herb Schoenbohm, KF4FZ, Chief of Communications for the U.S. Virgin Islands police department was contacted. The .31/.91 two meter repeater was used by Schoenbohm, Coulston, his wife, Mary Lou and KP4CD in Puerto Rico for tactical communications at the request of the FBI because they believed the passenger was from St. Croix.

The FBI had the name of "E. Mena" as the name of the person who had not disembarked from the plane. Schoenbohm recognized the name of Eddie Mena as that belonging to a former St. Croix police officer. A special telephone hookup from the plane to a trained hostage negotiating team in Atlanta was installed by the FBI. This telephone line plus the two meter ham band provided the needed communications.

Schoenbohm used the police computer to locate someone who had graduated from the police academy with Mena. It was determined that the hijacker was a Vietnam veteran who suffered from Post-Vietnam Shock Syndrome.

The negotiations continued on the phone lashup and the .31/.91 machine between

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #2

June 15, 1987

Mena, his friends and the authorities for some seven hours. A sharp-shooting team was positioned ...ready to shoot him if necessary. Finally, Mena gave up. Neil Coulston, KB4CCW, flew the plane back to the Virgin Islands the next morning. That's the good news.

The bad news ... There was serious intentional jamming of the repeater during the early part of the emergency. Schoenbohm identified the jammer as David G. Ackley, W4UWH, of St. Thomas, USVI, who was yelling, making cat calls and constantly calling another amateur even though notified that an emergency was in progress.

Ackley is the same amateur that was found guilty by the San Juan FCC Field Office of previous jamming incidents. His fine still has not paid and W4UWH has hired a prestigious Washington law firm to represent him. He keeps filing for more reviews.

Schoenbohm tape recorded the W4UWH intentional jamming and comments. A felony action complaint now has been filed with the FBI for deliberate and malicious interference with two-way communications during a bona-fide emergency. Another charge against Ackley, hand-carried to Puerto Rico by the pilot of the hijacked plane, has been registered with William C. Berry, Engineer in Charge of the FCC's San Juan office.

FBI Special Agent Al Sternecheut thanked the amateur communications team for providing key information crucial to finalizing a potentially tragic incident of air piracy without any loss of life or property.

LAND MOBILE COMMENTS OF 220-222 MHZ

Comments are pouring into the FCC on their (Office of Engineering and Technology) proposal (NPRM General Docket 87-14) to reallocate the top two megahertz of the amateur 220-225 MHz VHF band to 200 (5 kHz wide) narrow band land mobile channels.

Amateurs are arguing that they need to retain 220-222 MHz for weak signal, CW/-SSB, moonbounce, repeater control signal and EM simplex operation. They further contend

that, contrary to FCC belief — and the ARRL Repeater Directory which indicates 220 MHz band repeater frequency use, that this spectrum is well occupied by the amateur community.

At least one major business band radio company is already selling 216-222 MHz ACSB (narrowband amplitude campandored sideband) private land mobile transceivers even though the spectrum is not yet available to business interests! Aerotron, Inc. (a subsidiary of the General Signal Corporation) advertisements lead one to believe that this spectrum has already been allocated by the FCC to the private land mobile service. Such is not the case.

Aerotron had their hands slapped by the FCC and they have now agreed to wait until the Commission rules on Docket 87-14 before proceeding further with their 220 MHz business band marketing effort. We picked up Aerotron's formal comments last week in Washington. Their comments are fairly indicative of the land mobile industry's thinking. Aerotron said:

(1.) ACSB (which is now an Aerotron registered trade mark) systems were developed by Sideband Technology, Inc. between 1980 and 1982. STI was one of the original petitioners for land mobile spectrum from the 220-225 MHz band. This firm was later purchased by Aerotron in 1984.

(2.) "...the Commission's proposal to allocate spectrum in the 220-MHz band (to private land mobile) was not a surprise (and) ...is a logical extension of the Commission's efforts to preserve the precious little remaining spectrum by insisting on the use of spectrum efficient technologies."

(3.) "Aerotron is fully aware of the concerns voiced by amateurs regarding the Commission's proposals... We have many close associations with amateur radio people and many are employed by Aerotron."

"Amateurs have only been allowed secondary use of the 220-225 MHz band because of the primary allocation to government radio-location operations. Although these

I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

Indel he v J Re J P am? Jo, I fe s a c
of your Extra Class license, this signed statement, and a SASE

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #3

June 15, 1987

allocations will be almost completely phased out by 1990, WARC-79 gave the amateurs only co-primary status along with fixed and land mobile services, thus continuing to place amateurs in jeopardy of losing the entire band to those services. The Commission's proposal in the Notice should be supported by perceptive amateurs because it proposes to give them exclusive primary use of 222-225 MHz. Amateurs should view this proposed action as a very positive step, because it would tend to eliminate the nebulous nature of the previous allocation."

(4.) "The Commission's research has indicated that only minor use is made of the 220-225 MHz frequencies by amateurs. This agrees with earlier findings of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The Commission's proposals in this Notice would not affect the newly granted Novice class amateur privileges for this band. The new Novice privileges are restricted to frequencies above 222.1 MHz."

(5.) "There will be a few amateurs affected by this new proposed allocation and Aerotron believes those few have the technical capability to move up to the new 222-225 MHz range. In addition, we believe that the amateurs' experience with narrowband operation will encourage them to expand their use of this technology if they feel a shortage of spectrum."

COMMENTS OF SEA, INC, ON 220-222 MHz.

SEA, Inc., formerly Stephens Engineering Associates, also manufactures and markets ACSB radio equipment.

(1.) "SEA is sensitive to the needs of the amateur radio community. All elements of the land mobile industry in this country include amateur radio enthusiasts among their members or employees, and SEA is no exception. If the Commission's proposals in the Notice are adopted, the Amateur Radio Service will lose a portion of its current secondary allocation in the 220-MHz band but will gain exclusive use of the portion that remains"

(2.) Historically, amateurs have been permitted only secondary use of the 220-225 MHz

band because the primary allocation was reserved for government radiolocation operations. ...The Commission's proposal in this proceeding to give the Amateur Radio Service an exclusive primary allocation of 222-225 MHz should be viewed by the amateur community as a positive step, because (1.) it removes the current uncertainty respecting loss of the entire 220-MHz allocation and cements a solid primary — and basically exclusive — allocation; and (2.) leaves the Amateur Radio Service with a three megahertz segment that is more than adequate to meet current and foreseeable needs."

(3.) "Commission research demonstrates that amateur radio operators make very limited use of the existing 220-MHz allocation. ...Indeed the light use made of the 220-MHz band was one reason it — rather than the 144 MHz "2 meter" band — was chosen as the starting-point for new Novice-class VHF/UHF voice privileges."

(4.) "An amateur population of 425,000 licensees has access to 69 MHz of VHF/UHF spectrum. This amounts to the availability of 1.62 MHz of available spectrum in the 30-1000 MHz range for each 10,000 amateurs. By comparison, the private land mobile radio services have 90.8 MHz of VHF/UHF spectrum in the 30-1000 MHz range which is occupied by at least 8 million transmitters. That usage represents the availability of 0.11 MHz for each 10,000 private land mobile transmitters."

"Thus, attributing one VHF/UHF transmitter to each amateur radio licensee — a "worst case" assumption because many licensees confine their operations to the high-frequency bands — amateur radio operators have 14.3 times more spectrum available per transmitter than do licensees in the land mobile radio service. ...licensees in the Amateur radio service are very generously endowed with spectrum in the prime VHF/UHF frequency ranges most suitable for land mobile operations."

(5.) "For at least four years, the amateur radio community has been on notice of the Commission's interest in reallocating a portion of the 220-MHz band to alleviate spectrum shortfalls in the private land mobile services.

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #4

June 15, 1987

During that time that has been no perceptible increase in the use of the 220-MHz band by amateur operators and no documentation that the band is so heavily used that it could not accommodate the reduced allocation proposed by the Commission. (We conclude) that the amateur community will not be deprived, or even seriously inconvenienced, by reallocation of 2 MHz of spectrum sorely needed to accommodate the rapid growth in demand for land mobile channels."

VIDEO TRANSMITTER IMPORTER CONVICTED

A federal jury in Las Vegas has convicted Joseph Andre Ali on nine counts of importing and selling illegal video transmitters. An identical verdict was returned against Ali's corporation, Orion Industries International of Las Vegas.

Ali had imported and sold the illegal devices under the name TV Genie and had failed to file the necessary forms notifying the FCC of the operation. The TV Genie was designed to connect a video source, such as a VCR or camera and transmitting the signal over the air to a nearby television receiver. Commission regulations do not permit this type of operation because of the potential for interfering with legitimate users of the frequencies to which such devices are persect.

Ali was found to have sold over 27,000 of the items after his corporation received a second warning that the devices were prohibited. Before searches and seizures halted Ali's operation, net profits to his company exceeded \$900,000. Ali could receive nine one-year prison sentences and fines of over \$1,000,000.

James Zoulek, Assistant Engineer-in-Charge of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau's Long Beach (California) District Office organized and directed this investigation.

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO ARRANGEMENTS...

From time to time the FCC sends out a Public Notice advising amateurs of the international amateur radio arrangements in

effect. The latest notice is dated June 4, 1987.with:

THIRD PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

Antigua & Barbuda	Argentina	Australia
Belize	Bolivia	Brazil
Canada	Chile	Colombia
Costa Rica	Cuba	Dominica
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador
The Gambia	Ghana	Grenada
Guatemala	Guyana	Haiti
Honduras	Israel	Jamaica
Jordan	Liberia	Mexico
Nicaragua	Panama	Peru
St. Christopher & Nevis		St. Lucia
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		Sierra Leone
Swaziland	Trinidad & Tobago	
United Kingdom(*)	Uruguay	Venezuela

(*=Special event stations with call sign prefix GB followed by a number other than 3)

The United States has an agreement with the United Nations permitting third-party traffic with amateur service stations 4U1ITU in Geneva, Switzerland, and 4U1VIC in Vienna, Austria.

International amateur service radio-communications are limited by the International Radio Regulations. They must be in plain language and consist only of messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified. (§Part 97.111) Business messages are, of course, prohibited.) (§Part 97.114)

At the end of an exchange of international third-party traffic, the FCC-licensed amateur service station must transmit the call sign of the foreign amateur service station in addition to its own call sign (§Part 97.84)

RECIPROCAL OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

The United States has arrangements to grant reciprocal operating permits to visiting alien amateur service licensees. A foreign national who will be in the United States for an extended period of time is encouraged to obtain an FCC amateur service license. An FCC-issued amateur service license may be

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enables an amateur radio operator to obtain a ham ticket without
needing a ham ticket without
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W5YI NOVICE PACKAGE: \$24.95 + \$2.40 Shipping

W5YI REPORT.....

Page #6

June 15, 1987

MARCH VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	March 1986	1987
No. VEC's:	*76	*63
No Testing Sessions:	342	444
ARRL: 1986 53.5% 1987 43.5%		
W5YI: 1986 14.9% 1987 31.5%		
DeVRY: 1986 6.1% 1987 5.9%		
CAVEC: 7.0% 5.2%		
Others: 21.4% 13.9%		
No. Elements Administered:	6,839	9,352
ARRL: 60.5% 52.5%		
W5YI: 11.0% 20.3%		
CAVEC: 7.4% 7.2%		
DeVRY 4.4% 4.7%		
Others: 16.7% 15.3%		
Year-to-Date Elements Adm:	15,501	18,513
No. Applicants Tested:	4,637	6,183
ARRL: 60.2% 52.1%		
W5YI: 10.7% 20.8%		
CAVEC: 7.5% 6.6%		
DeVRY: 4.7% 4.9%		
Others: 16.9% 15.6%		
Year-to-Date Appl. Tested:	10,607	12,380
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:	62.2%	58.6%
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:	62.7%	56.1%
Applicants per Session:	13.6	13.9
Appl. per Session/W5YI:	10.2	9.1
No. Elements Per Appl.:	1.5	1.5
No. Sessions Per VEC:	4.5	7.1
Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's		
Defective Applications:	0.9%	0.3%
Late Filed Sessions:	2.1%	0.5%
Defective Reports:	3.2%	0.9%

• The FCC sent us two months VEC PROGRAM STATISTICS together, March and April 1987. They must be catching up. We have digested these reports for your information. Basically the reports show that, although there are more than 20 different VEC groups, only four VEC organizations account for 85% of the testing "market." None, except the W5YI-VEC program, shows any growth over last year. This growth — nearly double last year — is due partially to several VEC groups opting to join us rather than continue as a separate VEC themselves. (Metroplex, Dunedin, AE4N ...and other VEC's are now W5YI testing centers. Practically none of the recently disaccredited VEC's are really out of the testing business.)

APRIL VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	April 1986	1987
No. VEC's:	*76	*59
No Testing Sessions:	337	354
ARRL: 1986 56.1% 1987 45.2%		
W5YI: 1986 14.5% 1987 25.7%		
DeVRY: 1986 5.0% 1987 5.1%		
CAVEC: 3.0% 7.9%		
Others: 21.4% 16.1%		
No. Elements Administered:	6,618	7,870
ARRL: 62.3% 54.3%		
W5YI: 12.5% 19.1%		
CAVEC: 5.9% 5.5%		
DeVRY 3.7% 3.4%		
Others: 15.6% 17.7%		
Year-to-Date Elements Adm:	22,119	26,383
No. Applicants Tested:	4,470	4,736
ARRL: 61.6% 52.6%		
W5YI: 10.5% 17.5%		
CAVEC: 6.0% 5.2%		
DeVRY: 4.7% 4.1%		
Others: 17.2% 20.6%		
Year-to-Date Appl. Tested:	15,055	17,116
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:	58.2%	61.1%
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:	54.7%	58.0%
Applicants per Session:	13.3	13.4
Appl. per Session/W5YI:	10.0	9.9
No. Elements Per Appl.:	1.5	1.7
No. Sessions Per VEC:	4.4	6.0
Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's		
Defective Applications:	0.4%	0.2%
Late Filed Sessions:	0.3%	0.6%
Defective Reports:	3.3%	0.6%

* = The FCC considers ARRL, W5YI, and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: 1 through 0 plus Pacific, Alaska and Caribbean Insular areas.
[Source: FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554]

LIBERALIZED ANTENNA HEIGHT IN K.C.....

PRB-1, the FCC's declaration that antennas and their structures lie in the federal domain and must not be unfairly regulated, played the major part in allowing amateurs higher antennas in Kansas City recently.

KØTLM/Tom Bishop's antenna had been cited for being higher than the allowed "five

obtained by anyone, regardless of nationality, upon passing the requisite qualifying examinations.

Where an alien has taken advantage of the opportunity to hold an FCC-issued license, there is no need for a reciprocal permit, since that person may operate an amateur station in his or her own right. Neither a United States citizen, regardless of any other citizenship also held, nor an alien holding an FCC-issued amateur service license is eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal permit. When an alien holding an FCC-issued reciprocal permit obtains an FCC-issued amateur service license, that person's operator privileges derive from the FCC license. Thus, when an alien obtains an FCC-issued amateur service license, it supersedes any FCC-issued reciprocal permit held.

An alien may apply for a permit to operate his/her amateur service station in areas where telecommunications are regulated by the FCC if the alien is a citizen of one of the following countries and also holds an amateur service license from that same country:

Argentina	Australia	Austria
The Bahamas	Barbados	Belgium
Belize	Bolivia	Botswana
Brazil	Canada (**)	Chile
Colombia	Costa Rica	<u>Cyprus</u>
Denmark	Dominican Republic	Ecuador
El Salvador	Fiji	Finland
France	(including: French Guiana, French Polynesia - Gambier, Marquesas, Society and Tubal Islands and Tuamotu Archipelago)	
Guadeloupe	Ile Amsterdam	Ile St. Paul
Ilse Crozet	Iles Kerguelen	Martinique
New Caledonia	Saint Pierre & Miquelon	
Reunion	Wallis & Futuna Islands)	
Fed. Rep. Germany	Greece	Grenada
Guatemala	Guyana	Haiti
Honduras	Iceland	India
Indonesia	Republic of Ireland	Israel
Italy	Jamaica	Japan
Jordan	Kiribati	Kuwait
Liberia	Luxembourg	Monaco
Netherlands	Neth. Antilles	New Zealand
Nicaragua	Norway	Panama
Paraguay	Peru	Philippines
Portugal	St. Lucia	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Solomon Isl.	South Africa

Spain	Suriname	Sweden
Switzerland	Trinidad & Tobago	Tuvalu
United Kingdom (including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Isl., Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, St. Helena & Turks & Caicos Islands)		
Venezuela and	Yugoslavia	Uruguay

(** The arrangement with Canada permits operation by Canadian amateur service stations in the U.S. without obtaining a reciprocal operating permit and vice versa.)

An alien amateur service operator may apply for a permit by completing FCC Form 610-A, available from any FCC office or, in some cases from U.S. missions abroad. The permit is valid for one year or until the expiration date on the alien's amateur service license, whichever comes first. The application and a photocopy of the alien's amateur service license should be sent to: FCC, Gettysburg, PA 17325 USA.

Amateur service station transmissions in areas where telecommunications are regulated by the FCC must comply with Part 97 of the FCC's rules and the International Radio Regulations. Operator privileges in the U.S. are those authorized by the permittee's own government, but not to exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra operator. (§Part 97.7)

U.S. amateur operators wishing to apply for a reciprocal permit in a foreign country should contact the telecommunications regulatory authority for the country to be visited. The regulations of that country apply.
FCC Public Notice #3500, June 4, 1987

• The best book that the ARRL publishes is their annual FCC RULE BOOK. It contains more than just an up-to-date §Part 97. Included are (1.) how FCC rules are made ...and how you can participate (2.) international radio regulations (3.) Communications Act of 1934 (4.) how the Novice VE and newer VEC programs operate (5.) band plans (6.) what you can, and can't, do on ham radio (7.) a new section on the Novice Enhancement rules ... (8.) and much, much more! The 1987 (over 200 page) edition (just off the press last week) is available from us: \$5.00 plus \$1.50 postage/shipping. Be sure to order your copy today! W5YI-VEC, PO Box #10101, Dallas, TX 75207. Shipped within 24 hours.

feet above residential rooftop". Rather than fight the ordinance, Tom and his attorney (Rod Richardson/WAØHHX) decided to get it revised. Richardson convinced the city legal staff that amateur antennas five feet above rooftop were not adequate for most ham communication purposes. He recommended a maximum height of 60 feet and a safety setback of one-third the height from adjoining property.

The city was also sent model antenna ordinances as supplied by the ARRL. The Heart of America Radio Club developed an amateur radio information packet to send to each city council member. On May 15th, the council agreed 12-0 to adopt the new 60 foot amateur antenna height and cited the FCC's PRB-1 pronouncement as the legal basis for the change!

PROTECTING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES

Nick Leggett/N3NL is still concerned that parties hostile to the United States could knock out America's communications satellite network. In his comments on RM-4206, which looks toward rules that would reduce interference to communications satellites, Leggett asks for protective measures that would protect satellites from damage caused by electromagnetic pulse effect and uplink jamming.

EMP is a wave of electromagnetic energy from a high level nuclear device that can travel for hundreds — or thousands — of miles. According to Leggett, communications satellites would react to EMP as if it were hit by man-made lightning. Leggett says that third world nations hostile to the U.S. (such as Libya, Iran, the PLO or IRA) will have this capability "soon."

Asking that the FCC require satellite protective measures, Leggett said it is easy to jam uplink satellites, "it is a game many can play. It is within easy financial, technological and logistical reach for small countries with big gripes; terrorist groups seeking a new route to upheaval and publicity; and even disgruntled individuals using surplus equipment." (We found out how easy it is to jam satellites last year when an amateur radio operator used a commercial teleport to put HBO off the air for a short time.)

225-230 MHZ FM-BROADCAST BAND DENIED

Amateurs will not be having a new FM broadcast band as a neighbor above the 220-MHz ham band. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology has turned down the WRNJ (Radio New Jersey/Hackettstown) petition to allow daytime AMers with poor nighttime signals to move to the 225-230 MHz band.

The new "FM2" band was denied primarily because that spectrum is already allocated to the military who were using the band for "national security interests." The military would not say just what operations were ongoing there. The spectrum appears unused.

We now understand that RNJ is planning to petition for the adjacent 220-225 MHz amateur band! Apparently Radio New Jersey knows little about WARC spectrum allocation matters. While it is true that broadcasting is authorized at 220-225 MHz in Regions 1 and 3, there is no such allocation in our hemisphere, Region 2.

● Is military radar now obsolete? An article in the May 25th Washington Post leads to that conclusion. It says that the Soviets have been building missiles that do not rely on radar since its signals can be intercepted and jammed. Instead they are converting to optical guidance which can't be detected since there is no electronic signal emitted. The optical system is essentially a sensitive television which can only be used in good weather. During bad weather, the Soviets use missiles which lock onto an attacking radar signal. Article, written by a Department of Defense analyst, says our radar gives out too much information — such as type, number and location of ships and aircraft.

● Business band radios operating above 25-MHz will no longer have external controls used to program in unauthorized transmit frequencies if the FCC gets their way. According to a NPRM issued May 20, 1987, land mobile transceivers must have an "inaccessible frequency programming scheme available only to service/maintenance personnel" to preclude illegal user operation on less congested spectrum. The new rules will not apply to aircraft two-way radios. (PR Docket 86-37)

REPLY COMMENTS ON SCANNER LABELING

Regency Electronics has filed Reply Comments on its petition asking that labels be affixed to scanners as an acceptable method of alerting consumers that it is against the law to receive certain radio frequencies - particularly cellular phone calls.

Regency said "What the cellular industry failed to achieve in Congress, it now seeks to extract from the Commission. ...The cellular industry had every opportunity, and took advantage of every opportunity, to convince Congress to ban the manufacture, distribution and marketing of receivers capable of intercepting the cellular spectrum. The cellular industry failed in that effort. Congress refused to adopt a ban on the manufacture, distribution or sale of scanning equipment."

"The cellular industry has refused to bear any of the burden of protecting its technology from interception. It failed abysmally in developing scrambled technology for cellular telephone use. Rather, it sought federal legislation which instructed the public not to listen."

"...Underlying its opposition, which the cellular commenters refuse to acknowledge, is the cellular industry's concern that alerting the public that intentional, unauthorized interception of cellular frequencies is illegal will publicize the fact that domestic cellular systems are not technologically secure. The cellular industry can not have it both ways."

• The July 1987 issue of Commodore Magazine contains an article by Gerhard Schilling, AI6L, entitled ENIGMA. It discusses ancient and modern cryptology and transforms a C-64 or 128 into a real cipher machine. A reference reminds amateurs not to send ciphered messages over-the-air.

• The August 1987 issue has a game program titled "Radio Search" also by Shilling. Here the C-64 is transformed into a sophisticated radio detection console with analog and digital displays, radar indicator and description of messages being received. The task is

to find a terrorist station illegally transmitting in the 40 meter ham band. Many transmissions from U.S. and foreign amateur and broadcast stations can be detected. Success depends on the correct recognition of various clues, including call sign identification and some knowledge of Morse code.

• The Associated Press carried an article about ham operators handling Mother's Day messages to moms' of military servicemen across the nation - thanks to a toll-free service offered by a long distance company. C.L. "Pinky" Roberts (no call given) handled eighteen calls from one spot, the Tampa, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter on drug patrol in the Caribbean.

ISRAELI HAMS CONTACT JORDAN'S JY1....

Ron Gang, 4Z4MK, in Israel tells of the Israel Radio Club's 1987 Easter operation from five different sites of biblical significance. 4X9B operated from Bethlehem, 4X2J from Jerusalem, 4X7T from Mount Tabor, 4X3N from Nazareth and 4X8S from Mount Carmel.

One of the highlights of the event occurred with King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, visiting the home of a radio amateur in England contacted two of the above special stations. He cordially wished those contacted a happy Passover!

Communications by Israeli amateurs with Jordan are prohibited, but since the King was operating an English station, no 'rules' were broken. Ron said the 'ice was broken', however.

Newspapers in Israel reported this on their front pages and now Israeli amateurs are anxiously awaiting legalization of 4X-JY QSO's. "If ping-pong diplomacy thawed U.S.-China relations, possibly ham radio can do the same for Jordan and Israel," Ron reported

The Israel Amateur Radio Club operated around the clock from April 14-21 and made over 40,000 QSOs. A special award is available for contacting four out of five stations. (6 IRCs or equivalent to: Easter-87 Award, P.O. Box #4099, Tel-Aviv 61040, Israel.)

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HOLDING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES?
and "I lo... piced... under... panu... We have them!
Every manual contains every word-for-word question,

Test Manual: 1 Ea. \$4.00
Novice 1 Ea. \$3.50
1 tech. or Gen. 1 Ea. \$3.00

5-9 \$3.50
10 or more \$3.00 plus postage

June 15, 1987

● Four young amateurs will be heading off the college this fall with a big assist from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. Each student will receive \$1,000 to be applied to tuition of a school of their choice. This year's winners are:

Douglas Kleemann KA9LWN Shawano, WI
Carol Colby KA8PLF Midland, MI
Robert Jackson KA7OCV Tuscon, AZ
Michael Wozniak KD8TA Martin's Ferry, OH

The DARA scholarships are open to any FCC licensed amateur graduating from high school in the year the awards are given. There are no restrictions on license class or course of study. Applications are accepted from January 1st to May 15th - with the winners announced on June 1st.

● Our announcement that the Commission was considering "instant Novice operating privileges" has elicited many amateur comments to the FCC. None that we saw were opposed - all in favor. A side benefit to having the examiner allow his ham call to be used on-the-air with a suffix indicating the station is a new Novice is that the VE would be careful in his selection of candidates.

● FCC has issued a NPRM proposing to permit existing and future licensees of two-way mobile Radio Common Carrier frequencies to use the spectrum in any manner they see fit - including reselling. Radio common carriers (paging/telephone/alarm/telemetry/-repeater/simplex mobile, etc.) services would even be free to use paired frequency channels for two different purposes or to completely change frequency use if marketplace changes demand. Comments close 7/2/87.

● Prices of personal computers are dropping sharply in light of the IBM's April announcement of their new PC line ...and an accompanying price reduction on existing models. Practically every company has reduced their prices including Tandy, AT&T, Zenith, Epson... Expect to pay about 20% less for IBM clones.

● Apparently there is some sort of problem with intravenous pumps, a medical electronic device, malfunctioning when in a low powered 2-meter RF field. There have been many documented instances in Canada.

An amusing story appeared in the May 24th Palm Beach Post about a curling iron belonging to a lady in Fullerton, California, receiving obscene CB transmissions. The FCC said it probably was the result of nearby illegal high-power CB operation but that it would take them some 3 years to get to it.

AMATEUR PETITIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING

Sheffield P. Wilds, W4GVD, of Pineola, N.C. has filed a well written petition seeking to reduce the number of amateur radio operator classes from five to two.

Sheffield, who has been licensed for nearly fifty years, argues that the FCC has seen fit to dismantle its commercial licensing program. "... (In) today's unregulated environment, the FCC has 'de-regulated' licensing requirements in almost all phases of radio, except the Amateur Radio Service."

He asks that the 1950's vintage Class A and Class B amateur licensing system be re-established. Sheffield contends that the amateur radio environment has completely changed since the fifties when almost all transmitting equipment was built and maintained by the operator.

"In 1987, we have five classes of Amateur license. ...very few transmitters are built by the licensee ...maintenance is almost universally performed by skilled technicians of the manufacturer or an authorized agency. ...The armed forces and commercial agencies have practically no use of trained CW operators. We have many thousands of highly portable transceivers that can give us emergency communications vastly superior to the old days, and not requiring a large amount of technical knowledge to operate effectively."

"With this in mind, the question arises as to the necessity of the expenditure of federal funds to maintain five classes of license, with all of the paperwork required with no apparent benefit to the public and very little benefit to the Amateur Service beyond the 'snob appeal' or 'merit badge' precept of the Boy Scouts." Sheffield said he thought "recognition" could be achieved through certificates issued by the ARRL at no cost to the government.

Sheffield proposed that the FCC re-structure the Amateur licensing system to eliminate all current license classes and replace them with two classes ...such as Class B and Class A.

"Class B would combine current Novice and Technician classes with the operating privileges as currently structured for the Technician. The licensing requirements would be the same as the Novice requirements that recently went into effect."

"Privileges would read 'all amateur frequencies and modes above 28 MHz. with a power limit of 250 watts output from the transmitter. Current privileges below 28 MHz would be retained."

"Class A would combine the privileges of the current General, Advanced and Extra licensees. The examination would remain about the same as currently required for the General Class with the CW requirement reduced to 10 wpm — if indeed the Commission decided that there is any necessity or a requirement beyond the 5 wpm level."

"With CW becoming more and more obsolescent technically there seems to me that there is less and less reason to make it a stumbling block in the Amateur Service. It is almost the same as making knowledge of co-hearers, loop modulation, spark-gap technology or cat's whiskers, etc., part of current testing."

"Reducing the number of classes to two would also eliminate the requirements for the controversial call-sign system that has evolved over the years, also serving as status symbols that do not justify the costs."

"With only two classes, if there is a desirability that call-signs designate license class, all newly issued calls would return to a semblance of the system previously used. Such a system could issue 2X3 calls beginning with a K for Class B and beginning with a W for Class A. Most all KC-KZ X3 and WE-WZ X3 calls would be available. This would eliminate a lot of paperwork and computer time over the present system."

(Petition for Rulemaking, filed w/FCC 6/2/87)

SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGNS ARE BACK....

Or at least so it seems. Special U.S. Constitution Bicentennial call signs will be issued by the ARRL to selected club and individuals for use during one week beginning December 1987. Approved amateur stations will be able to substitute "200" for their regular call sign district. The League will advise the FCC which stations will be using the "200" ...and when. (Has the FCC already decided who the SCSC — Special Call Sign Coordinator — will be?)

We also understand that the ARRL is trying to get FCC approval to coordinate the Tenth Pan American Games special event station from W9PAX (Pan American "X" for Ten) to W87PAX. W9PAX will be operational during the games being held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 7 through 23, 1987. W9PAX will be on the CW airwaves from August 1-23 operating 30 kHz up from the bottom of each band (1.8 to 28 MHz). SSB operation: 1.850, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350 and 28.550 MHz.

"The purpose of W9PAX is to extend to all amateurs of the participating Nations, and amateurs throughout the world, the expression of good will from all Indiana amateurs." That's how the PR stuff reads. Interestingly ...the W9PAX call actually comes from Wisconsin! Gordon Miller of Wisconsin Rapids "loaned" his call sign to the special event effort since there was no sure way of getting a unique Pan American call sign.

W9PAX will also be handling traffic (via direct contact with W9JP located at Athlete's Village) to the homes of the participants and back again. Messages will go via the National Traffic System.

Colorful Tenth Pan American Games QSLs will be available — with a certificate on tap for those that work W9PAX (W87PAX?) on three different bands ...or working PAX once and one station each from any three of the participating Pan American Nations ...or PAX once and three Indiana stations. (Send QSL — or, for certificate, list with signal reports, date and time of contact — to: W9PAX, PO Box #18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218-0495.)